



**KENTUCKY READING FIRST
UPDATE (10)
August, 2005**

Dear District /School Coaches and Principals:

Many of you are gearing up for the beginning of school and some of you have already begun. We hope everyone has an exciting opening day and gets everything off to a good start.

If you have a new principal, district or school coach, please submit that information to Kiley Whitaker at kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us <<mailto:kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us>> before Friday, August 12th. The Reading First staff will be submitting all updated information to the National Reading First database (SEDL) before the end of the month. This is a requirement of KDE in order to ensure that the USDoE Reading First Office has the most accurate information.

As a reminder, we hope you are taking advantage of the wonderful resource you have available to you on a regular basis - your assigned State Reading First Coach. Recently the KDE Reading First team was able to identify our tenth State Reading First Coach that will be providing technical assistance to the northeastern and south central part of Kentucky. Our new coach, Mr. Mitch Bailey, has worked with many of our districts in a different capacity. Please welcome him to the Kentucky Reading First family. This may have affected your district/school's state Reading First Coach assignment. If it has affected you, your district office and school will be receiving a formal communication noting our change in State Coach assignments. You may also find this information on our Reading First website.

Many of you may be aware, that I will be leaving the Reading First team to go to the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (housed at UK). I have enjoyed my time

working on this project, as well as the various other reading initiatives at KDE. We are in the process of finding a new person for this position. Please contact me (fcumings@kde.state.ky.us <<mailto:fcumings@kde.state.ky.us>>) if you know of someone that may be interested in a Frankfort-based position, working directly with our Reading First Initiative.

In order to create a seamless transition, please make sure you forward all communications and program amendments to Linda Holbrook at lhoolbroo@kde.state.ky.us <<mailto:lhoolbroo@kde.state.ky.us>> and Kiley Whitaker at kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us <<mailto:kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us>> beginning Monday, August 8th. If your school is awaiting a response to an amendment, that was submitted before July 1, 2005, you will receive that information before next Friday, August 12th.

KDE email will be down/inactive beginning Thursday, August 4th through Sunday, August 7th. The Reading First Staff will be unable to receive or respond to any emails during this time. We appreciate your patience with this matter.

I. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2nd National Reading First Conference

Some of you have recently returned from the 2nd National Reading First Conference held in New Orleans, LA. We are hopeful you will be able to use this professional development opportunity as the catalyst for continued professional growth during the 2005-06 school year. Our expectation is that those that attended the conference will provide professional development for fellow colleagues on the sessions they attended. Kentucky was well represented at this conference.

Reading First and Special Education Summer Institutes

This year over 2,700 regular education and special education teachers attended summer institutes across the state. Informal feedback indicates that teachers left excited and eager to implement new strategies and new learning in their classrooms this upcoming school year.

We appreciate the united effort, from the Office of Teaching and Learning, the Division of Exception Children and the Special Education Cooperatives to make the summer institutes a success. Our goal together is to close the achievement gap for Kentucky students.

2005 - 2006 Reading First Calendar of Events

Please see the attachment below for the 2005-2006 updated calendar of Reading First events. Some of you received a copy of a similar calendar in New Orleans; however, please refer to this calendar as it has been revised.



Monitoring Webex
Training.doc

Note: The event scheduled for September 22nd will now be a session just for District and School Coaches. This will be considered the September Monthly Coaches' Meeting. This session will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Downtown Louisville, prior to the special Reading First session featuring Dr. Timothy Raskinski and Dr. Dorothy Strickland.

Kentucky Reading Association Conference - September 22-24, 2005

Please plan now to attend the Kentucky Reading Association conference scheduled for September 22nd - 24th. The full conference events will begin on Friday, September 23rd; however, a special session is planned for our Reading First districts and schools on Thursday evening. Please visit our Reading First website (<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Literacy/Kentucky+Reading+First/Kentucky+Reading+Association+Fall+Conference.htm>) for additional information (i.e. Thursday evening RSVP, conference registration form, conference highlights).

II. STATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/MONITORING

Monitoring and Technical Assistance

The Reading First Staff will be presenting the future Reading First monitoring system for consideration of continuation or discontinuation of Reading First funding. After the Kentucky Board of Education's meeting on August 3rd and 4th, the Reading First staff will have an opportunity to share the entire monitoring system.

Recently, you should have received a communication about the technical assistance we will provide based on the monitoring system. The technical assistance, Webex training, will be conducted unless the State Board of Education requests the Reading First staff to provide additional information. The PowerPoint for this training will be on the Reading First web page along with the support documents. Please refer to the attachment below for dates and times.

A Webex training means that you will download files from the internet and listen via conference call. You will not need to go anywhere for this training. You can have as many people as you want in the training, as long as you use only one phone line. We encourage your literacy team to participate in this training.

III. READING FIRST BUDGET SUPPORT

All 2004-2005 Reading First funds must be spent or encumbered by September 30, 2005 and all encumbrances must be paid by October 31, 2005. A final expenditure report must be submitted by November 15, 2005.

Please refer to the attached memo regarding non-instructional equipment requests and purchases.



Non-instructional
Equipment Me...



Reading First
Calendar of Even...

IV. ASSESSMENTS

Assessment Timeline

Please see the web page link which outlines the assessment schedule for the 2005-2006 school year.

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Literacy/Kentucky+Reading+First/Testing+Windows+++Reading+First.htm>

Wireless Generation

You should have received some information from Wireless Generation regarding a new enrollment system. Please adhere to the requests from Wireless in order to ensure our student and teacher data is accurate.

AGS Data System

The Reading First Team in collaboration with AGS has developed a new online datafile system that we will be using for GRADE testing this year. Usernames and passwords will be sent out to State, District, and School coaches before the first testing window. This system will be populated with demographic information from STI before the end of next week. You will need to make sure that your STI information at your school is as accurate as possible (the information in the system will only be as good as the information that we get from STI). Once the information has been uploaded to the new AGS database system, School Coaches will need to check that information to make sure it is accurate. If that information is not accurate, then School Coaches will need to update the information in the AGS datafile and also make sure that information gets updated in STI. School Coaches will be able to update the AGS datafile system until the last day of the testing window and then the system will switch to read only. This means you will be able to view the information in the system, but not make changes. This read only status will last until all of the scoring has been completed. After that time you will be able to go back into the system and update information again. The information in the AGS datafile system will be the information that AGS uses when preparing scoring reports. Therefore, any mistakes that are in the system will return as mistakes in your reports.

AGS will be giving training on this system the before the first testing window. This will be another Webex training, so you will not need to leave your schools. Webex trainings

are basically conference calls where you download files and follow along with the speaker. You will receive additional information about this training in the near future.

There will be no pre-printing in the fall. You will need to bubble information on your test booklets and your group identification forms. We will send out further information on this subject in the near future.

V. NATIONAL/STATE EVALUATION

National Evaluation

KDE anticipates a fall visit from the team representing the national evaluation. As we receive further information about the visit, we will pass this information along to districts and schools.